

United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO |
|--|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 09/965,162 | 09/27/2001 | Steve E. Hoffman | 9436-9 | 3930 |
| 23973 7 | 590 10/03/2006 | | EXAMINER | |
| DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH | | | ALIE, GHASSEM | |
| ATTN: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP ONE LOGAN SQUARE | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 18TH AND CHERRY STREETS | | | 3724 | |
| PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-6996 | | | DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006 | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPLICATION NO./ FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / CONTROL NO. PATENT IN REEXAMINATION 09/965, 162 09/27/2001 Steve E. Hoffman

EXAMINER

Ghassem Alie

ART UNIT PAPER

3724 20060925

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

See attached

Application/Control Number: 09/965,162

Art Unit: 3724

Acknowledgment of Reply Brief

1. The reply brief filed on 09/19/06 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ghassem Alie whose telephone number is (571) 272-4501. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on (571) 272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, SEE http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GA/ga

September 25, 2006

BOYER D. ASHLEY SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Page 2